In regard to the construction of a bridge across the Pampa river at Kozhancherry, I am in complete agreement with you and the Chief Engineer that a bridge there is eminently desirable. The Chief Engineer has recently sent up an estimate for having the possibilities of a bridge there investigated, *i. e.* borings and so on. It is bound to be a very expensive bridge, and when it can be carried out I do not know. Anyhow, we will have the possibilities investigated very shortly.

Then, in regard to the improvement of Kuriyannur-Nedumprayar road to Mulaveli landing, M. A. road to Parapuzha landing, Maramon-Tottapuzhacherri road to Arattupuzha landing, these are ryots' roads, now under departmental maintenance. The construction of culverts and the making of improvements are proceeding in the order of urgency. The improvements are being done from the maintenance grants year by year as opportunity offers and funds are available.

52. Extension of the railway from Trivandrum to Nagercoil.

MR. D. FRANCIS (*Member, Nominated*) said that the proposal to connect Trivandrum and Nagercoil by a railway line was not a new one. A survey was held for the purpose even forty-five years ago. Motor traffic had developed since, but motor vehicles could not take the place of railways. The proposed railway line from Trivandrum to Nagercoil would pass through several busy centres such as Neyyattinkara, Kuzhitura, Colachel etc. and would lead to the opening up of those areas. Even at the present time it was calculated that about three thousand passengers and five hundred tons of goods were daily passing between Nagercoil and Trivandrum. This would be enhanced four-fold if the railway was opened. South Travancore was also the seat of several industries such as tile-manufacture, weaving, fishing, monazite mining, etc. It would be giving an impetus to these industries if the railway line was opened.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Francis, as you say the Nagercoil-Trivandrum railway has been surveyed and the question of construction is standing over because at present we are concentrating our attention on the Chakkai-Tampanur extension and remember that the Chakkai-Tampanur extension is really the first step of the railway from Chakkai towards the south. For the present at any rate let this matter of the Trivandrum-Nagercoil railway stand aside till the first extension from Chakkai to Tampanur is completed.

53. Means of communication in the Parur taluk.

MR. AIYAPPAN RAMAN (*Member, Nominated*) in describing the paucity of proper means of communication in the Parur taluk suggested the following remedies calculated to provide immediate relief :—

(*a*) The road from Parur to Muthakunnam should be widened and raised and the necessary culverts and bridges should be constructed;

(*b*) a bridge should be constructed at the Kuryapilli ferry ;

(*c*) the bridge at Mulekadavu should be repaired ; and

(*d*) a road should be constructed from Muttakunnam to Munampam.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Aiyappan Raman, you heard what I had to say on the subject of roads in Parur to another member who spoke this morning.

As regards the repairing of the road from Parur to Muttakunnam, it is maintained by the P. W. D. at present with a maintenance grant of Rs. 20 a mile. Now the question of the Vadakkekara bridge has been taken up and when that bridge is completed you will have through communication and the need for converting this into a cart road will become a necessity. The question of a bridge at Kuriyapalli is now under consideration.

54. Needs of the Quilon town.

MR. M. K. ABDUL RAHIMAN KUTTY (*Member, Nominated*) said that most of the subjects which he wished to deal with had already been taken up by the other members representing the needs of the Quilon town. He therefore made only one request *viz.*, in regard to the reopening of the old Quilon-Trivandrum road along

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the southern side of the Jew's shop. Government once agreed to reopen the road in case the municipality wanted it. The municipality accordingly forwarded a resolution to Government, but nothing happened. The road should be reopened without more delay.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abdul Rahiman Kutty, you say that the municipality moved Government in the matter of opening this road but that they heard nothing more on the subject. That is not strictly accurate because the municipality moved in the matter in January 1927. The Chief Engineer then went into the matter and submitted a report. Then in March 1927 he supplied another report. Then Government asked the municipality whether they would agree to contribute at least half of the cost. The municipality have since enquired what the approximate cost would be and this question has been referred to the Chief Engineer and as soon as his report is received, this information will be conveyed to the municipality.

55. Ayurveda Department.

MR. K. P. MARTANDAN VAIDYAN (*Member, Chirayinkil taluk, Group II*) dealt with the development of the Ayurveda Department and suggested measures for further advancing the department. According to him there were three classes of Ayurveda Vaidyans now in the State. The first class consisted of those Vaidyans who had qualified for the various diplomas instituted by the Government. The second class consisted of those hereditary Vaidyans, who though wanting in diplomas were proficient in the art. The third class consisted of those quacks who had neither diplomas nor proficiency and who could be seen in numbers all over the country. This last class should be prohibited from gambling with human lives. So far as qualified Vaidyans were concerned, they were wanting in practical knowledge in surgery and prescription. This apart, the grants-in-aid which Government were granting to these Vaidyans, were very small, ridiculously small when compared with the pay given to allopathic doctors. It would be very proper to fix the amount of the grant-in-aid at least at Rs. 50. The next class of Vaidyans *viz.*, the hereditary physicians formed the real practitioners of Ayurveda. They should be encouraged and all inducements should be held out to them. A committee should be appointed to find out such Vaidyans and to render them all encouragement.

As regards the regeneration of Ayurveda, the member said that Ayurveda, though a perfect art, was gradually dying out owing to want of judicious patronage. In fact most of the methods of treatment propounded and practised by the ancients had already sunk into oblivion. To resuscitate this ancient system, the exertions of a man proficient both in the western and oriental systems of treatment were absolutely necessary. Such a man should be at the head of affairs in the Ayurveda Department, if the department was to make any progress hereafter.

Another suggestion made by the member was in regard to the teaching of anatomy to the students of the Ayurveda College. The students of the college were now given theoretical instruction in anatomy, but this would be of little help to them unless they were also given practical training in surgery. In order to achieve this end, Government could either appoint an allopathic doctor in the Ayurveda hospital or arrange for practical training in surgery being given in the General Hospital to the students of the Ayurveda College.

The member referred in conclusion to the recent development of education among the Ezhavas and the consequent political awakening among them. Time was when the Government excluded the Ezhavas from educational institutions and from the public service. But these disabilities had been removed of late, and the Ezhavas were now making rapid strides in education. Their political and civic consciousness was quickened and they were eager to establish their legitimate claims for representation in the public service. In the Ayurveda Department, particularly, they were very poorly represented though the greater number of the qualified candidates in the State belonged to their community. Of the many appointments in the department, only two were held by members of the Ezhava community. One was the doctor appointed temporarily to the post of Lecturer in Anatomy in the Ayurveda College and the other was a compounder in the Ayurveda Hospital. Government should look into this matter.

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